

REMARKS

Claims in the Application. Claims 1, 13, 21 and 24 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-14 and 17-24 are active in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 97/22563 ("*Kraglund*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,617,045 ("*Bronshtein*"). *Kraglund* only discloses the use of wood ashes, while the present invention utilizes ashes resulting from the incineration of wood chips. Applicant has amended the claims to further illustrate the difference between the present invention and *Kraglund*. It is believed that the amendment to the claims obviates the need for further discussion of this objection.

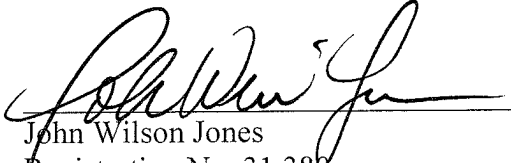
The Examiner's rejection of Claim 5 over *Kraglund* in view of *Bronshtein* and U.S. Patent No. 6,402,801 ("*Faulmann*"), and the rejection of Claim 13 over *Kraglund* in view of *Bronshtein* and U.S. Patent No. 6,565,645 ("*Klein*") are also traversed. For reasons stated *supra*, the claims of Applicants are distinguishable over *Kraglund* and thus must be distinguishable over *Faulmann* and *Bronshtein*.

The Examiner's rejection of Claim 9 over *Kraglund* in view of *Bronshtein* and U.S. Patent No. 6,342,461 ("*Lee*") is traversed. *Lee* discloses ceramic composition made from waste materials. The immediate application teaches a method of producing insulating materials or other mineral fiber products. *Lee* only teaches methods for producing ceramic materials such as tiles. The chemical and physical nature of mineral fibers inherently differs from that of ceramic product. Mineral products are the result of a melting product while ceramic products are the result of a sintering process. These two process yield products possessing vastly different crystalline structures. Therefore, *Lee* cannot be applied to a method of preparing a mineral melt for the production of mineral fibers. In col. 4, ll. 33-49, *Lee* discloses that the solid waste materials play the part of feldspar in the conventional ceramic composition. This is a clear reference to the sinter body and the crystal structure which results from the sintering process. The production of mineral fibers results in a melting product rather than a sintering product. The melting product relates more closely to glass or a glass-like state. Accordingly, the rejection of the claims over *Lee* is improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusions. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned should he deem it prudent to expedite the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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